

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY QUITO IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 126844

EXDIS - S/S FOR BODINE; FOR TODMAN FROM LUERS

FOLLOWING REPEAT GUATEMALA 03418 SENT ACTION SECSTATE 31 MAY 77

QUOTE S E C R E T GUATEMALA 3418

EXDIS

FOR ARA TODMAN FROM ARELLANO

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: OCON, EFIN, SHUM, GT

SUBJ: AD-HOC MEETING WITH ARGENTINE MINISTER OF ECONOMY ON
HUMAN RIGHTS

1. FOLLOWING THIS MORNING'S BILATERAL DISCUSSIONS WITH ARGENTINA (REPORTED SEPARATELY BY MEMO), SECRETARY BLUMENTHAL ASKED ME TO ARRANGE MEETING BETWEEN CONGRESSMAN BADILLO AND ARGENTINE MINISTER OF ECONOMY MARTINEZ DE HOZ. BLUMENTHAL FELT SUCH A MEETING WOULD SUPPORT OUR PREVIOUS DISCUSSIONS ON HUMAN RIGHTS.

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2. MARTINEZ AND CONGRESSMAN BADILLO MET FOR APPROXIMATELY 30 MINUTES DURING WHICH TIME MARTINEZ EXPLAINED ARGENTINA'S POSITION ON HUMAN RIGHTS IN DETAIL. BADILLO IN SPANISH WENT OVER HIS HUMAN RIGHTS BILL AND EXPLAINED THE RELEVANT PROVISIONS. BADILLO ALSO TOOK PAINS TO EXPLAIN HIS VIEW ON LEGITIMACY OF SOVEREIGN NATIONS TO COMBAT TERRORISM. HE USED BRITISH/NORTHERN IRELAND AND ISRAELI EXAMPLES. HE STRESSED, HOWEVER,

DIFFERENCES BETWEEN "FIRE FIGHTS" AND "DESAPARECIDOS".
MARTINEZ ACCEPTED A COPY OF THE BADILLO BILL ALTHOUGH
HE STATED THAT HE ALREADY KNEW ITS CONTENTS.

3. AFTER CONGRESSMAN BADILLO LEFT HURRIEDLY ON HIS WAY
TO AIRPORT WITH SECRETARY BLUMENTHAL, I REMAINED BEHIND
WITH MARTINEZ AS HE FINISHED LUNCH. AT THIS TIME I
REITERATED THE IMPORTANCE OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUE IN
THE MORNALIZATION OF US-ARGENTINE RELATIONS.

4. IN THE EARLIER BILATERAL DISCUSSION, SECRETARY
BLUMENTHAL RAISED A POINT WHICH, ALTHOUGH NOT DIRECTLY
CONNECTED, BROUGHT ABOUT A RESPONSE FROM MARTINEZ CONCERNING
THE "FALSENESS" OF ALLEGED ANTI-SEMITISM WHICH IS SUPPOSEDLY
NOW PREVALENT IN ARGENTINA. DURING THE LATER AD-HOC MEETING
MARTINEZ AGAIN BROUGHT UP THIS ANTI-SEMITISM TOPIC AND WENT
INTO DETAIL CONCERNING THE GELBARD-GRAIVER ISSUE. HE
SUGGESTED TO ME THAT GELBARD WAS IN LEAGUE WITH GRAIVER
AND THAT THIS EXPLAINED GELBARD'S CURRENT "CAMPAIGN" IN
THE US AGAINST THE ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT.

5. AT CLOSE OF DISCUSSION, I MENTIONED TO MARTINEZ THAT
IT COULD BE INJURIOUS FOR A "SOUTHERN CONE" COALITION TO
BE FORMED WHICH WOULD BE DESIGNED TO FORMULATE A RESPONSE
TO US HUMAN RIGHTS POLICIES. HE ASSURED ME THAT ARGENTINA
WOULD NEVER ENTER INTO AN "EJE" OR COALITION WITH CHILE
OR ANYBODY ELSE ON THIS ISSUE. MARTINEZ ADDED THAT
DURING VIDELA'S VISIT TO VENEZUELA THE GOA OFFICIALS
HAD BEEN APPROACHED TO FORM AN "EJE" OF VENEZUELA
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AND ARGENTINA VERSUS BRAZIL. THIS HE SAID WAS DECLINED
BY THE GOA.
BOSTER

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